



Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY

Reports to the 6th District

Summer 2003



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Friends:

Many of you have asked me about the U.S. role in the reconstruction of Iraq. While many of us disagreed with the wisdom of starting the war, we all agree that it is essential that Iraq is reconstructed for the Iraqi people.

Building a lasting peace will be difficult; it will require allies, patience, and a large financial commitment. Most importantly, I believe that the United Nations must be the lead agency in providing security in Iraq and administering humanitarian assistance. While U.S. troop involvement stabilizing Iraq in the short-term is important, having the international community take the overall lead will go a long way toward developing a solid foundation for Iraq's future.

Furthermore, I believe that American reconstruction efforts in Iraq must be coordinated through the Department of State, not the Department of Defense. Not only does the State Department have more experience administering humanitarian aid in post-conflict situations, but blurring the lines between military officials and reconstruction authorities will undermine America's credibility, put development workers at risk, and possibly slow down reconstruction in Iraq.

The United States has an overwhelming interest in not acting, or appearing, like a colonial power in Iraq, which is why we must move swiftly to help promote a democratic, representative Iraqi government that is clearly independent of the United States.

Also, as we help build democracy in Iraq, we must not forget about protecting our freedoms at home. Over the past decade, we have witnessed an explosion of media outlets. But this increase in television, radio and cable stations, and the proliferation of the internet, has been countered by federal regulations that have benefited big business over the interests of the American public.

This June, the Federal Communications Commission is proposing changes that could result in an even greater ability for large conglomerates to own multiple media outlets in local markets. We have seen what this means by the lack of accurate and fair coverage of the Peace movement, and we cannot allow this to continue. I will continue to fight to protect American democracy from the interests of big business, now and in the future.

As always, I encourage you to share your thoughts and concerns because the people of Marin and Sonoma counties are the most important voices I listen to as I serve in Congress.

Sincerely

Lynn Woolsey

Peace isn't found at the end of a war path

War is an outdated concept and we must do everything possible to prevent it from happening. That is why I am supporting legislation calling for the creation of a Department of Peace. War is the result of failed diplomacy and is a heavy-handed way of resolving international crises – without making us any safer.

The path to peace isn't through war. The path to peace is through a healthy and educated global community, cooperation with the international community, and achieving political change through non-violent means.

The Department of Peace would help make a peaceful world possible by promoting the study of peace from grade-school to college, developing a Peace Academy on the same level as a military academy, and making the Secretary of the Department of Peace a cabinet level position so non-violent means of protecting our national security would be given the consideration that they deserve.

A Department of Peace would point our country away from a doctrine of waging war to attain peace, and towards a path of waging peace to prevent war.

it's your federal government

Meet & Speak

Call (707) 542-7182 to schedule an individual appointment or just drop in to meet with Rep. Woolsey and discuss issues that are important to you.

June 14, 9AM - 12PM

Rohnert Park City Hall,
Council Chambers
6750 Commerce Blvd,
Rohnert Park

Sept. 13, 9AM - 12PM

Pickleweed Community Center
50 Canal St., San Rafael

Timely Links

Constituent services while you are visiting Washington, D.C.:

<http://woolsey.house.gov/ConstituentServices.asp>

Flags flown over the capitol:

http://woolsey.house.gov/flag_request.html

To see if National Guards or Reservists in your neighborhood have been called up to active duty:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/>

Information for military families:

<http://www.CinCHouse.com>

International affairs information on the United States Agency for International Development:

<http://www.usaid.gov>

<http://woolsey.house.gov>

Office Locations

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Disarm Weapons of Mass Destruction

The United States and other established nuclear powers have a tremendous responsibility to lead the world away from nuclear holocaust. In the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the United States agreed to work to completely eliminate its nuclear weapons stockpiles. Unfortunately, even though this treaty entered into force in 1970, the United States has not made a consistent effort to eliminate these terrible weapons.

In fact, in June 2002, the Bush Administration led us away from disarmament by discarding the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and deciding to develop usable, low-yield nuclear weapons. To stop the United States from continuing down this path of destruction, I will introduce legislation calling on the United States to live up to its obligations under the NPT and begin work to lead the world in eliminating all nuclear weapons. As long as these weapons exist, so does the threat of nuclear destruction. The only way to keep this from happening is to abolish nuclear weapons entirely.

It is difficult to maintain our international credibility when we go to war to keep Iraq from building Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) while we build more of our own and make extensive plans to use them. It is time to eliminate nuclear weapons, bolster America's international credibility, and decrease the risk that Americans will be subject to an attack by these terrible weapons. America must stand for more than just unmatched power; the U.S.A. must stand for democracy, liberty, integrity, and wisdom.

Renewable Energy Push

As a Senior Democrat on the House Science Subcommittee on Energy, I know that increased drilling for fossil fuels and the destruction of America's pristine natural environment will not provide energy independence for future generations.

For the protection of our environment and the future security of our nation, we must develop new solutions to satisfy our energy needs. Earlier this year, I reintroduced H.R. 1343, "The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Act of 2003," (REEA) to reduce our nation's dependence on fossil fuels. The bill outlines a national goal that 20% of the energy produced in the U.S. by 2020 is to come from renewable energy sources (not including hydro-power) and authorizes \$11.8 billion over five years for R&D and commercial applications of renewable energy.

It could not be a better time to increase the use of renewable energy as

a way to protect our environment, protect our health and protect our national security. We will not be a secure nation while we depend on foreign oil.

The bill increases research and development goals for renewable energy such as wind, solar, geothermal, hydrogen and biomass; enhances energy efficiency R&D goals for housing, industrial use and transportation; improves aviation performance; and provides financial incentives for small companies that use renewable energy for their day to day operations.

By setting a goal to provide 20% of the nation's energy through renewable energy sources by 2020, this legislation will help in developing safe energy alternatives to stop our dependence on dirty, exhaustible fossil fuels, so we can provide a healthy, secure future for our children.

Peace takes root in D.C.



Rep. Lynn Woolsey with Nobel Laureate, Jodi Williams, and Roots of Peace founder, Heidi Kuhn at event on Capitol Hill.

It is always a pleasure to work with local groups who are making a difference in our world. Over the past few years, I have been working closely with Marin native, Heidi Kuhn, to support the Roots of Peace. The Roots of Peace is a non-profit organization that helps Afghan families recover from the devastation of war by funding projects to demine fields littered with landmines and restore them to their former

agricultural use.

This year, I am introducing legislation, the "Roots of Peace Act" to request \$10 million to support the work of Roots of Peace and other organizations to demine and replant areas like the Shomali Valley, the former breadbasket of Afghanistan. The legislation will help continue ongoing efforts to improve the lives of families in Afghanistan and develop similar programs throughout the world.

Also, I am helping to inform and educate Members of Congress of the need to change U.S. policy against the use and development of landmines. This past fall, Nobel Laureate, Jodi Williams; founder of "Roots of Peace," Heidi Kuhn; representatives of the International Committee to Ban Landmines, and leaders of various development agencies met with Members of Congress to discuss the dangers of landmines and how the U.S. must lead the international community in doing away with landmines in military arsenals.

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Official Business
OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Lynn Woolsey
M.C.

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